



# **COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS AND THE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL / AVIATION SAFETY OFFICER**



# AGENDA



- ❖ COMMANDER RELATIONSHIPS
- ❖ AUTHORITY VS RESPONSIBILITY
- ❖ RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMANDER
- ❖ STARTING OFF RIGHT
- ❖ TERMS OF THE RELATIONSHIP
- ❖ DOs
- ❖ DON'Ts
- ❖ MAKING SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS
- ❖ TIPS FOR SUCCESS
- ❖ SUMMARY
- ❖ QUESTIONS



# COMMANDER RELATIONSHIPS



- ❖ BRIGADE COMMANDERS AND LOWER MAY NOT HAVE MUCH OF A WORKING EXPERIENCE WITH THE DACs
- ❖ COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS HAVE A FULL LOAD
- ❖ COMMANDERS EXPECT YOU TO BE THE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT



# AUTHORITY VS. RESPONSIBILITY



- ❖ YOU ARE AN ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDER
- ❖ YOU HAVE LIMITED AUTHORITY
- ❖ YOU MAY BE DELEGATED AUTHORITY



# AUTHORITY VS. RESPONSIBILITY



## ❖ **Know 101-5...**

- ❖ Know your responsibility in risk management during the military decision making process
- ❖ Be able to train staff on their risk management responsibilities
- ❖ Remember, you are the staff integrator of risk management for the commander
- ❖ **Be technically and tactically competent on the unit's METL and missions**



# RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMANDER



## ❖ **BECOME A TRUSTED AGENT**

- AS A DAC YOU ARE THE CONTINUITY
- AS THE ASO YOU ARE THE WORD OF EXPERIENCE

## ❖ **BE AN HONEST BROKER**

- CREDIBLE
- DEPENDABLE
- VISIBLE
- VALUABLE



# STARTING OFF RIGHT



- ❖ HAVE A PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE
- ❖ INTRODUCE YOURSELF
- ❖ SET-UP AN OFFICE CALL - LET HIM KNOW HOW YOU WILL ASSIST HIM IN ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION
- ❖ AVOID BEING PERCEIVED AS A THREAT AND/OR HINDRANCE TO THE MISSION



# STARTING OFF RIGHT



## **CONTINUED...**

- ❖ LET THE COMMANDER KNOW YOUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO ASSIST HIM
- ❖ DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO THE COMMANDER – GET TO KNOW HIM ON AND OFF DUTY
- ❖ MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND THE ORGANIZATION'S SOCIALS
- ❖ BE A TEAM PLAYER





## TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP



### KNOW...

- ❖ HOW OFTEN WOULD THE COMMANDER LIKE TO BE BRIEFED ON ISSUES
- ❖ WHAT DOES HE CLASSIFY URGENT MATTERS OR ISSUES; HOW DO YOU APPROACH CONFLICTING OPINIONS
- ❖ BE READY FOR CHANGES; DON'T STAY IN THE COMFORT ZONE
- ❖ YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IS VALUABLE TO THE UNIT'S MISSION

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# DOS



## **DOS**

- ❖ HAVE FACTUAL DATA TO SUPPORT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS
- ❖ OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- ❖ SEEK OTHERS' OPINIONS; WORK WITH ALL MILITARY AND DAC PERSONNEL
- ❖ HAVE ALL REGULATIONS AND POLICIES CURRENT

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# DON'Ts



## **DON'T...**

- ❖ PRESENT A PROBLEM WITHOUT A PROPOSED SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDED COURSES OF ACTION
- ❖ HESITATE TO GIVE YOUR EXPERT OPINION
- ❖ MISUSE THE COMMANDER'S NAME – “COMMANDER SAID” / “COMMANDER WANTS”
- ❖ TRY TO IMPRESS THE COMMANDER
- ❖ BE CLOSE MINDED TO NEW IDEAS



# MAKING SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS



- ❖ ANALYZE ALL THE FACTS, FOLLOW THE REGS AND POLICIES
- ❖ REVIEW OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS
- ❖ GAIN APPROVAL FROM THE COMMANDER



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS



## ❖ BE PROACTIVE

- BE THE “EYES AND EARS” FOR THE COMMANDER
- TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND FIX PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY ESCALATE
- GAIN AND MAINTAIN TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL PROFICIENCY
- BE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY FIT



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS



**CONTINUED...**

❖ **BE LOYAL TO THE COMMANDER**

➤ UNLESS IT IS ILLEGAL, IMMORAL, OR UNETHICAL, ALWAYS SUPPORT THE COMMANDER

❖ **FOCUS YOUR PRIORITIES**

➤ DEDICATE YOURSELF TO PROVIDING AN INCREASED QUALITY OF LIFE AND A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



# SUMMARY



## ❖ **RELATIONSHIPS / AUTHORITY VS. RESPONSIBILITY**

- YOU'RE THE CONTINUITY FOR THE UNIT
- YOU'RE THE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

## ❖ **STARTING OFF RIGHT**

- INTRODUCTION
- OFFICE CALL
- MISSION & GOALS

## ❖ **DOs & DON'Ts**

- HAVE FACTUAL DATA
- PROVIDE RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS
- EXPECT CHANGES

## ❖ **TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

- BE PROACTIVE
- TAKE INITIATIVE
- BE DEDICATED

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# QUESTIONS